

**Purpose and Need**  
**Grapevine Vault Restroom Project**  
**USDA Forest Service**  
**Tonto National Forest**  
**Tonto Basin Ranger District**  
**Gila County, Arizona**

**Date:** February, 2021

**ID Team Leader:** Kelly Jardine

**Project Name:** Grapevine Vault Restroom Project

**Ranger District:** Tonto Basin

**Project type:** Special Area Management and Public Safety

**Target start date:** February 2021

**Target finish date:** November 2021

Expected NEPA Documentation Type: Categorical Exclusion (Use checklist, DM not required)  
Categorical Exclusion Category: 32.12 (3) Repair maintain admin sites

**Project location:** The Proposed Project would be located on the South side of Roosevelt Lake, located in Roosevelt, Arizona. T4N, R13E, Section 32, Gila and Salt River Base Meridian. See project map.

**Existing Condition**

The Airstrip, and adjacent disturbed and fenced area, is open to the public except when used by the Forest Service for Fire Operations as a Helicopter base of operations. The Airstrip has the FAA Identifier 88AZ and is designated as a Non-Towered Airstrip with a CTAF of 122.9. The Airstrip is not open to regular surface access, and is accessed by the, gated and locked, Forest Road 1480. During the cooler months, the Arizona Pilots Association (APA) and Recreation Aviation Foundation (RAF) host monthly fly-ins. Both organizations have served as partners with the Forest Service for the maintenance and improvement of the Airstrip for over 8 years. All scheduled uses of the Airstrip require arranging for portable restrooms to be delivered to and removed from the site. No facilities remain after scheduled uses, for the casual use of the strip by the public. Arranging for the delivery and pick-up of portable restrooms is challenging due to the remoteness of the site and the locked access to the site.

## **Purpose and Need**

The purpose of this proposed project action is to construct a permanent vault restroom at the Grapevine Airstrip. The proposed installation of a single riser, two piece pre-cast vault and prefabricated building would provide a cost efficient, convenient, maintainable, safe and sanitary facility for the users of the Grapevine Airstrip site. The need is to comply with the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (RMP) management prescriptions for a variety of renewable and natural resources in RMP Area 6J, including providing for special uses and public safety.

## **Proposed Action**

The proposed action would include the preparation of a 10 foot wide by 10 foot long by 10 foot deep excavation, using a backhoe, lowering the two piece pre-cast concrete vault into the excavation and setting the prefabricated building on the top of the vault using a crane. All excavation and disturbance from construction equipment would be confined to areas having previous surface disturbance. The excavation, itself, would be conducted in accordance with all construction features, mitigations and conditions specified in a Cultural Resource Clearance for the site.

The Restroom would be maintained, cleaned and the vault pumped by the APA and RAF during their use period and Fire Operations would provide the same maintenance services during the fire season.

## **Implementation Timeline:**

**Beginning spring 2021 until completed (budget will dictate)**